

### **Abstract of the Invention**

A decentralized control system for group drive installation and method of decentralized control of group drives. The decentralized control system has a data and power input branch having a group installation branch protection, a first drive installation connected to the input branch, at least one additional drive installation connected in parallel with the first drive installation at a load side of the group installation branch protection, and a control line interconnecting the input branch, first drive installation, and subsequent drive installations. Each drive installation includes a field distributor and a geared drive connected to said field distributor. The method of decentralized control of drives on a single branch includes selecting a control protocol, providing a power and data input branch having a group installation branch protection, connecting in series with the input branch at least two drive branches, each of the drive branches having a drive with individual overload protection, and transmitting a control signal based on the selected control protocol from the input branch to the drive branches.